

fly paper because there are no flies. He concedes that three or four flies may visit the ordinary dining-room in the course of a summer. They are not kept out by screens, the demand for fly screens being as non-existent as that for fly paper. But the scattering flies become discouraged by the scarcity of their food and either seek more hospitable localities or give up the struggle for existence under the evident impression that in a contest for the survival of the fittest they are outclassed. This happy immunity, the consul says, is attained, not by fly-swatting campaigns, which attack the evil at its symptoms instead of the source. The consul reports that all the buildings, pavements and sidewalks are of brick, stone or concrete. "Decayed or decaying vegetable or animal matter is not left exposed." The streets are cleaned several times each day. No open drains are allowed, and consequently flies can not breed in the filth. In short, the places where flies can breed being abolished, the flies disappear.

Before the French Academy of Sciences, M. Roux presented recently the results of experimenters by Charles Nicolle, L. Blaisot and A. Cuenod, of the Louis Pasteur Institute, on trachoma in monkeys. The investigators find that the Barbary ape, one of the smaller monkeys, is peculiarly sensitive to this disease, the microbe of which will pass the filter. By contact with the diseased portions of the eye, the tears catch the infection and remain virulent. The investigators are of the opinion that the infectiousness of the malady and the length of time that communicability is possible make justifiable most stringent measures of separation and prophylaxis.

In the Comptes Rendus of the Societe de Biologie, Dr. Charles Richet, of the University of Paris, presents some considerations of anaphylaxis. This is the process whereby one treatment with a substance makes the subject more than ordinarily sensitive to further treatments or inoculations, which may prove fatal. In this case the investigator was determining the length of time through which the unusual susceptibility would remain. He found that a

dog fed with six grammes of crepitan without inconvenience was killed by an inoculation six months later, the latter being of the minute amount of thirty-two milligrammes, while other control dogs were not affected by the same amount. "Alimentary anaphylaxis," writes Dr. Richet, "no longer to be doubted, can thus be valid for long terms, and in considering what is known of human alimentary conditions makes it certain that some individuals may retain in their systems a hypersensitiveness toward certain substances that are inoffensive to normal persons."

H. Busquet and M. Tiffanet, two French experimenters of the University of Nancy, have been considering the action of coffee on the heart, using the rabbit for the investigation. Work was conducted with coffee and with caffenin, both of which produced an acceleration of heart beats, the latter when injected into the blood effecting the same stimulation. No such action followed experiments with decaffeinized coffee. It is to be asserted, therefore, that caffenin is the principal cause of effects of coffee on the heart. There is some question, however, in the minds of these men about the propriety as yet of transferring these conclusions to the human heart.

The Annuals of the Pasteur Institute note that a rabbit has been found that is immune to rabies, even with intercranial inoculations. It is noted by Dr. Viala as the only instance in fifteen years' experience. There has been an effort to secure from this creature an anti-rabic serum, but without success.

#### Advance Notices, Alphabetical.

*Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire*, Toronto, Ontario, in 1915.

*The Royal Sanitary Institute, Henry Saxon Snell Prize*.—This prize, consisting of 50 guineas and the silver medal of the Royal Sanitary Institute is offered, 1912, for an essay on "Suggestions for Improvements in the Ventilating, Lighting, Heating and Water Supply Appliances for an Operating Room and Its Accessory Rooms of 400 Beds" (No Students). For conditions of the competition applications should be made to the Secretary of the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90 Buckingham Road, London, S. W., England.